

## News of the Week Among Women

## Where Women Now Hold Municipal Franchise

THE municipal primary vote recently granted to women of Atlanta is indicative of the ingenuity with which women have gained their ballot rights.

This is the second city of Georgia, a state supposed to be locked and barred against equal suffrage, to grant city primary suffrage to women. The other city is Waycross, which capitulated two years before the old American principle that "taxation without representation is tyranny." So many women in Waycross paid large taxes that the city invited white women in to the white primary elections.

By a majority vote, with only one dissenting voice, the Democratic City Committee of Atlanta bestowed the same right on white women on May 3 of this year.

The efforts of Atlanta women to gain this local right began in 1915. What happened this year is an indication of the changed point of view of the male politician and also of women's growing shrewdness in political matters.

The newly elected chairman of the Fulton County Suffrage Association, Mrs. A. G. Helmar, and her committee, canvassed the whole city committee. Then they asked that a special extra session of the executive committee be called and got it. They asked for a hearing so that the three state leaders of the suffrage cause in Georgia, Mrs. Mary McLeod, "the mother of suffrage in Georgia"; Mrs. Emily McDougal, and Mrs. Frances Smith White, might present their claims. This also was obtained.

"No speeches were made against suffrage, and the whole atmosphere was cordial and pleasant," said Miss Raul. "This was quite a surprise to me, as I have not been in close touch with suffrage work since I left the national office, and I expected the kind of reception which I had formerly been familiar with." Of course, there was great enthusiasm on the part of the women who crowded the room, and there were a great many jeers and laughter when the one man voted against the resolution. All the men had just as good a time as when they used to be against suffrage.

it was and how pleased they were going to feel with themselves they would never have let the grass grow under their feet in this manner. Even the Mayor, James L. Key, came up and made his speech in due order."

The significance of the Atlanta act was enhanced by the cablegram from Paris, announcing that Senator William J. Harris, of Georgia, had pledged himself to vote for the Federal Suffrage Amendment. The Georgia women point to the infinitesimal speck of equality gained in Tennessee when Lookout Mountain—one little town near Chattanooga—gained municipal suffrage two years ago by legislative grant. The bill was signed by Governor Thomas C. Rye in April, 1917. It was the first woman suffrage bill ever brought before a Tennessee Governor for ratification, and it grew out of the expressed wish of the women on the mountain to have a woman on their school board. Now Tennessee has statewide municipal and Presidential suffrage.

Municipal suffrage, in conjunction with Presidential suffrage, has been granted women by the legislatures of Illinois, North Dakota, Nebraska and Tennessee. It was also given the women of Vermont by legislative grant on March 21, 1917, two years before their Legislature gave them Presidential suffrage.

Women may now vote at municipal elections in all incorporated towns in Vermont, in Columbus, East Cleveland and Lakewood, Ohio (1917).

These are all home rule cities, which, under Ohio's new constitution, can make their own charters. The woman's ballot was gained, therefore, in these cities by referendum to the voters at the polls and not by the Legislature.

In Florida eleven charter towns have equal municipal suffrage, all gained since 1915.

In Annapolis, Md., taxpaying women were given the charter right of woman suffrage by the Legislature of 1900.

After every one of these surprised men are finding like their fellows in Atlanta, Ga., that they are "having just as good a time as when they used to be against suffrage."

## To Investigate Foods

Mrs. Edward P. Costigan has been appointed chairman of a committee of the League of Women Voters to investigate the food situation. The league already has voted to "stand back of the Federal Trade Commission in its efforts to procure remedial legislation in the meat packing industry."

## Women's Motor Corps Is Disbanded

By Ishbel Ross

MAJOR HELEN R. BASTEDO is no Amazon in inches, although generals and statesmen have been known to call her a game warrior. And she has been accused by Mrs. Grundy of letting loose in New York hundreds of fair ladies in knee length skirts and leather leggings. She has also won a reputation for severe discipline that any barrack room martinet might envy.

But now she has given demobilization orders to the members of the Motor Corps of America. There are husbands and babies at home who have to be looked after. For two and a half years these women have been rendering faithful and courageous war service. Now they disband, under a solemn pledge to respond instantly to any emergency call.

On Tuesday a dinner will be given to Major Bastedo by her corps at the Ritz. It will mark the formal demobilization of the women who have served as chauffeurs, as first aiders, as helpers in every emergency, including big fires and serious accidents.

## No Such Word As "Can't"

Right up to the last minute calls for help have been coming in.

"A call for cars to transport 300 men to the hospital," announced a member of the corps to the major, as she sat at her desk yesterday. "We can't do it to-day, can we?"

"No such word as 'can't' for the corps," snapped the major. "We will. You tell them we can and I'll tell you how."

This incident epitomizes the spirit that has governed the Motor Corps of America from the time it was organized two and a half years ago. It has had a steady membership of nearly 800 workers. Its activities have extended over a radius of fifty miles. It has had in constant use four hundred cars and sixty ambulances. Thousands of soldiers have been transported from place to place and tens of thousands of miles have been covered by the ubiquitous cars of the



Major Helen Bastedo

Motor Corps. It has worked in close cooperation with the Salvation Army, the Knights of Columbus, the Jewish Welfare Board, the League of Catholic Women Canteens, the American Protective League, Naval Intelligence and Army Intelligence. It has handled the transportation for Governor's Island and Hoffman's Island. During the influenza epidemic more than 1,100 cases were handled. Not an emergency arose that was not met quick as a flash. There was no red tape to tangle up proceedings, no cumbersome officialism. The major gave the word and everybody buckled to, without argument or expostulation. She wears two medals, one given her by the

Police Department for her work during the Perth Amboy explosion and another awarded by the veterans of foreign wars.

For the first year of its service the Motor Corps handled all port of embarkation work under the jurisdiction of the Surgeon General. So thorough was the system of training that the workers were sent for two weeks to an insane asylum to learn how to handle insane cases as they came off the boat. For the next year and a half the corps devoted itself to navy and marine work, in addition to its civil activities.

## They All Volunteered In Danger

The latter were more numerous than people might suppose. At the time of the Perth Amboy explosion Major Bastedo went with her workers to the scene of the accident. She took them aside and explained to them the peril in which they stood, on account of the possibility of a further explosion of TNT. She reminded them that as mothers and wives they had to think of their responsibilities. Then she asked for volunteers. Every one of those women came forward!

At the time of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit wreck the women of the Motor Corps went down into the darkness and the horror of it all with the police and firemen. All night long they continued their rescue work.

There are many similar cases of gallantry that went unrecorded, but nothing is more illustrative of the value of their every-day work of transportation than the letters which are now pouring in from hospitals and military men, expressing regret that the corps should break up and praising it for the splendid work it has done.

Three of its members gave their lives in the service. One died after an ambulance accident and two succumbed to influenza.

## Will Always Be Ready for Work

"But this isn't the end," the major blithely admits. "Our personnel remains the same. Our headquarters will still be open. Instead of keeping up the daily service we have been rendering for the last two and a half years we will return to our homes and former occupations. But we will hold ourselves in readiness for any emergency work. Our women are all fully trained mechanics; they are used to exposure; they are self-possessed; they are not hysterical and they are absolutely disciplined. I have the satisfaction of knowing that I am returning over 700 women to the community who are better in mind and soul for their years of hard military training."

"Whatever the Motor Corps has done in the way of war service has been due to the thoughtfulness and unselfishness of the finest crowd of officers and personnel that a commander ever had the privilege to lead. The Police and Fire departments, too, have been splendid in backing us."

"Our motto has been: 'The game for the game's sake and efficiency all along the line.' We have specialized in promptness and sportsmanship. We have made a point of never letting opportunities slip, no matter how big the proposition might be."

Major Bastedo is much concerned about the future of the war worker. "The woman who has been out and doing for the last two years cannot be assigned to her old walk of life and left there," she says. "She has been dragged from her niche and the country owes it to her to make definite use of her new capabilities. You cannot give those women concrete rewards. They must have something that will satisfy the new demands created by the period of their war service."

## Home Makers in New York Form State Federation

NEW YORK is the first state in which the home-makers have come together in a state federation, through the work being done by the home bureaus.

Active work was begun when the organization committee of the federation met in Ithaca last week and drew up plans and programmes for the state wide organization, which was created last February at Cornell's farmers' week.

Home bureaus or groups of women in country or city have banded together in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, the New York State College of Agriculture, and the State Department of Farms and Markets for home and community betterment. All of the agencies act through the extension service at the College of Agriculture, and the Federation of Home Bureaus has been formed to help solve the larger state wide questions which are likely to arise in the broad field of home economics.

The home bureaus are open to all who are interested in home-making, the work being centered in each county or city around a home bureau agent who acts for the association. Each member of the association is a partner with "Uncle Sam," and with the powers of the state through the extension service in this new kind of public education, devised particularly for "grown-ups," though it has its work with boys

and girls also through junior extension activities.

New York has home bureaus in twenty-five counties, and in two cities—Buffalo and Syracuse. Other cities and counties are working toward the home bureau organization, which is apparently as much assured of success as the farm bureaus, now established in all the fifty-six agricultural counties of the state.

The activities of the home bureaus are by no means confined to cooking and canning, though their activities largely took that form in the last two years because of the war emergency measures for food conservation. The work includes problems of health, food, clothing, shelter and household management in their relations with family and community betterment. This year the programme which most communities have asked for includes problems of thrift, such as family accounts and budgets.

The federation plans to name committees which will help the central organization to strengthen the county work and will aim to develop the best methods of cooperating with all existing agencies in the field.

The organization committee consists of the following: Mrs. A. E. Bridgen, Cortland County, chairman; Mrs. M. E. Armstrong, Otsego County; G. Putnam, Wayne County; Mrs. Vincent Rioridan, Buffalo; Mrs. Lewis Seymour, Broome County, and Miss Florence Freer, Ithaca, secretary.

## Women Protest Housing

WASHINGTON, May 29.—The thousand or more women war workers living in the government dormitories in Washington have organized to make an effort to remove a number of what they call "objectional features" in the management of the hotel.

The women have gone on record as disapproving the removal of Colonel E. H. Sanctuary, who was in charge of the housing. It was he who excluded Senators' and Representatives' secretaries and clerks from obtaining quarters in the dormitories, contending that they were not war workers and that they received salaries sufficiently high to permit them to look elsewhere for rooms.

Colonel Sanctuary is a member of the advisory committee of the war workers' organization, and had charge of allotment of rooms in these dormitories from the opening of the operation until April 30, when his work as liaison officer with the

joint Congressional commission for reclassification of salaries of government employees made it necessary for him to resign from that work.

The women are understood to be opposed to certain features of the present management of the dormitories. They have organized to attempt to bring the sort of management they, as independent working women, want.

## FOR WOMEN Particularly

The Colt-Stratton Automobile course (87 Women Studied in May) gives the sound knowledge of an automobile, its care, and the principles of correct driving.

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## In National Affairs

WASHINGTON, May 28.—A party of American women experts on canning left this week for France to instruct domestic science teachers. They were sent at the request of the French Minister of Agriculture through the French High Commission to Secretary of Agriculture Houston.

The American Commission for Devastated France made the offer to the French government to finance the project of sending a party of canning experts to France, the French government to arrange itineraries and all details of that kind and the United States Department of Agriculture to lend the workers.

The party left Washington with a full canning equipment. There were taken, also, some canning exhibits, a number of reels of motion pictures of canning work in the South, and everything necessary for a complete course of instruction in canning vegetables, fruits and meats in the home. A number of American manufacturers made contributions of tin cans and glass jars and various other kinds of equipment. The Department of Agriculture has prepared the material for a bulletin on canning to be issued by the French government.

These four American experts are not undertaking to teach canning directly to the housewives of France. When they arrive the Ministry of Agriculture will have assembled, probably in Paris, the domestic science teachers from the agricultural schools of the various departments of France. The four experts from the United States Department of Agriculture will constitute the faculty of a school of home canning, the student body being the domestic science teachers of the French agricultural schools.

After that a tour of France will be made, the itinerary covering the institutions where are stationed the domestic science teachers who were students in the initial school. A three days' canning demonstration will be held at each of these agricultural schools, which are described as intermediate state colleges of agriculture and agricultural high schools.

It is expected that between four and five months will be required for the work. The anticipated result is the training of a corps of French teachers for home instruction.

WASHINGTON, May 28.—War workers in Washington, more than 100,000 government clerks from all parts of the country, will be here through the years of reconstruction, according to officials in the department. The number has been steadily increased until it is more than 100,000, in spite of the large numbers of government workers who left the departments after the armistice was signed. Efforts are being made to shift workers from departments where the work has fallen off to branches where the work of reconstruction demands an increase of force. The work of many of these branches is expected to continue for more than ten years.

WASHINGTON, May 28.—A conference between Secretary of Labor Wilson and officials of the United States Housing Corporation, on the one hand, and members of the joint committee on housing of the New York State Legislature, on the other, took place in the office of the Secretary on Friday, May 30, at 11 o'clock a. m.

Mrs. Ida B. Sammis, a member of the Housing Committee of the New York Legislature, came to Washington several days ago to confer with the Housing Corporation in regard to general housing conditions in this country and to seek information as to the methods employed by the government in handling the situation.

Mrs. Sammis reports the housing situation in New York as serious. The legislative committee on housing plans to frame early legislation with the purpose in view of relieving conditions in that state, and members of the committee coming to Washington desire information and advice from the United States Department of Labor officials before undertaking this work.



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A Weekly Chronicle of Woman's Progress

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(See issue of June 7, on news-stands, or write for sample copy).

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